

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Melvin Kraus on 2/4/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe comprising:

a transducer unit including a plurality of transducers for transmitting and receiving an ultrasound respectively located in correspondence with adjacent positions of transmission and reception; and

a flexible circuit board of at least one layer located in correspondence with said positions of transmission and reception, in which signal lines for supplying a transmission signal and for extracting a reception signal to/from said positions are installed;

wherein the flexible circuit board includes a first part which extends from the transducer unit in a longitudinal direction of the plurality of transducers and a second part which is connected to the first part and extends at predetermined angle with respect to the longitudinal direction extension of the first part so as to form a bend at the predetermined angle with respect to the first part;

wherein the flexible circuit board has slits in the longitudinal direction dividing signal lines of the flexible circuit board into a plurality of sections of the flexible circuit board, and each section of the flexible circuit board which is divided by at least one of the slits of the flexible circuit board is individually separately-spirally wound around a longitudinal axis which is different from another longitudinal axis around which another section of the flexible circuit board is individually spirally wound; and

wherein a length of the portions of the first part in the longitudinal direction gradually decrease as the portion becomes closer to an inner side of the bend.

13. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe comprising:

a transducer unit including a plurality of transducers for transmitting and receiving an ultrasound; and

a flexible circuit board of at least one layer being connected with each of said transducers, in which signal lines for supplying a transmission signal and for extracting a reception signal to/from said plurality of transducers are installed;

wherein the flexible circuit board includes a first part which extends from the transducer unit in a longitudinal direction of the plurality of transducers and a second part which is connected to the first part and extends at predetermined angle with respect to the longitudinal direction extension of the first part so as to form a bend at the predetermined angle with respect to the first part;

wherein the flexible circuit board has slits in the longitudinal direction dividing signal lines of the flexible circuit board into a plurality of sections, and each section of the flexible circuit board which is divided by at least one of the slits of the flexible circuit board is individually separately spirally wound around a longitudinal axis which is different from another longitudinal axis around which another section of the flexible circuit board is individually spirally wound; and

wherein a length of the portions of the first part in the longitudinal direction gradually decrease as the portion becomes closer to an inner side of the bend.

14. (currently amended) An ultrasound probe comprising:

a transducer unit including a plurality of transducers for transmitting and receiving an ultrasound; and

a flexible circuit board of at least one layer being connected with each of said transducers, in which signal lines for supplying a transmission signal and for extracting a reception signal to/from said plurality of transducers are installed;

wherein the flexible circuit board includes a first part which extends from the transducer unit in a longitudinal direction of the plurality of transducers and a second part which is connected to the first part and extends at predetermined angle with respect to the longitudinal direction extension of the first part so as to form a bend at the predetermined angle with respect to the first part;

wherein the flexible circuit board has slits in the longitudinal direction dividing signal lines of the flexible circuit board into a plurality of sections, and each section of the flexible circuit board which is divided by at least one of the slits of the flexible circuit board is individually separately-spirally wound around a longitudinal axis which is different from another longitudinal axis around which another section of the flexible circuit board is individually spirally wound; and

wherein a member is provided around each spirally wound section of the flexible circuit board.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELMER CHAO whose telephone number is (571)272-0674. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on (571)272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3737

/E. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3737